*Receipts from plantains in the inter-spaces*

| | Rs. A. P. |
|---|---|
| 1113 | 46—14—0 |
| 1114 | 37— 4—0 |
| 1115 | 29— 7—0 |
| 1116 | 20— 0—0 |
| Total .. | 133— 9—0 |
| **Grand total ..** | **145— 6—0** |

## NEW TOWN COUNCILS—CONSTITUTION OF

**85. Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** *(Cheruthuruthi):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they have dropped the proposals to open any further Town Councils in the State;

(*b*) if so the reasons for the same?

**Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Minister for Rural Development):*

(*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

**Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon** *(Cranganur):* May I know why no provision is made in the budget this year if the proposal is to go on with the Town Councils?

**Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Minister for Rural Development):* That won't be shown here. They have got their own budgets. Contributions are given by the Public Health Department.

**Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** *(Cheruthuruthi):* May I know why the services of the Special Officer were dispensed with?

**Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Minister for Rural Development):* His work is almost over and then he was taken into the service as Commissioner of the Mattancheri Municipality.

**Mr. K. R. Viswambharan** *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know whether the Government are aware that some communication from officers responsible for general administration has passed to the people residing in Town Council area that Government are reconsidering this question?

**Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Minister for Rural Development):* No such communication has passed from me.

**Mr. K. R. Viswambharan** *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* I do not say that these communications were from the Hon'ble Minister. I say from the Government.

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**Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** *(Cheruthuruthi):* May I know who that responsible member is?

**Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Minister for Rural Development):* I don't know.

**Mr. K. R. Viswambharan** *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* It was published in the dailies. As a matter of fact, one of the popular dailies in Cochin stated that there was a communication from a responsible member of Government to the people of Nemmara that the question is being considered.

**Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Minister for Rural Development):* I have no information and no such communication passed through my hands.

**Mr. M. K. Devassy** *(Adur):* The Hon'ble Minister is not the only Government member on the other side.

**Mr. M. Sivarama Menon** *(Advocate-General):* None of them is responsible for such statement and if answer is to be got upon that matter we require notice.

**Mr. M. K. Devassy** *(Adur):* We want an answer from the Government and not from any individual member of the Government.

**Mr. President:** They said they wanted notice.

**Mr. C. V. Iyyu** *(Kunnamkulam):* May I know whether any work is going on for the purpose of constituting Town Councils?

**Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Minister for Rural Development):* The work is completed.

**Mr. A. B. Salem** *(Mattancheri):* May I know whether any one individual member sitting on the Treasury Bench is responsible for such communication?

**Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Minister for Rural Development):* No.

**Mr. C. V. Iyyu** *(Kunnamkulam):* May I know whether there is any objection to take a referendum of the area before the opening of the new Town Councils?

**Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Minister for Rural Development):* That question does not arise.

**Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon** *(Cranganur):* How many new Town Councils are to be opened in the course of 1117?

**Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Minister for Rural Development):* We will decide only after getting the figures and the number of houses and things like that. The necessary investigation has already been conducted and files are pending before me and we will decide after going through them and taking into consideration all relevant facts.

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**Mr. A. V. Moothedan** *(Chalakkudi):* There was a proposal to start a Town Council at Chalakkudi. May I take it that it is dropped?

**Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Minister for Rural Development):* As I said, the whole papers are pending. It is only after preliminary enquiries that we can get the information.

**Mr. A. V. Moothedan** *(Chalakkudi):* Is the enquiry over?

**Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes.

**Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon** *(Cranganur):* What exactly is the purpose of your making a provision of Rs. 3,000 for Town Councils under 'Public Health Contribution'.

**Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Minister for Rural Development):* To give them grant.

**Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon** *(Cranganur):* To the Town Councils which are already existing or the new ones?

**Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Minister for Rural Development):* For those already existing.

## DEFENCE OF POOR PRISONERS

86. **Mr. C. V. Iyyu** *(Kunnamkulam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether Government have noted in the leaderette published on the editorial page of the "Mail", dated 7th May 1941 about the proposal of the Madras Government on the recommendation of Diwan Bahadur Gobi Narayana Chetty to make provision for defence of poor prisoners as was done in Britain;

(*b*) whether our Government be pleased to undertake and give effect to such a legislation in our State?

**Mr. P. V. Raphael** *(Joint Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No. In the case of murder cases there is provision for employment of counsel in Sessions Courts. The extension of this provision to all cases will lead to additional expenditure. Further, a major portion of the undefended cases relate to petty-thefts. There are ample facilities for defence in our State, and defence here is not after all costly. Moreover, it cannot at all be stated that any sort of injustice results by not providing for counsel to poor accused persons. The expectation that the number of people

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